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CHINA DAILY NEWS

APR 20 1941

Four Councillors

Representation Council May Involve Action by Foreign Powers

Informed Chinese circles said that the quarrel between pro-Chiang and pro-Tung groups of Chinese members of the new 100-seat Assembly to China and the Provisional Council in the government may eventually involve the question of recognition of the existing government and that this question is extremely important because it affects many powers represented in the new administration. It may delay opening of the new Council.

It is explained that all Councillors appointed to serve in the new government administration must be appointed by their respective governments and that since both Councillors and members are demanding that the administration of the new Council be split one to serve under the existing government in Nanking and the other to serve under the government in Chungking, the Chinese members from Nanking and from Chungking and the Chinese members of the new Assembly will be the ones to serve under the new body.

While Mr. Wang Jingwei, the pro-Chiang member and chairman, respectively, of the New People's Federation of China and the National Government, in Nanking, sent their delegations to the new Council, expressing the view that China's tellers should be allowed to tell their story, the members of the new Assembly in Chungking, who are pro-Tung, have not yet sent their delegations.

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Chinese Ratepayers Without Leaders

Mr. Hsu Chi-chuan Staying
In Hongkong

Mr. Hsu Chi-chuan, vice-chairman of the Chinese Ratepayers Association in the International Settlement who was recently reported by the Chinese press to have been "ill" and removed to a hospital in Shanghai, is now in Hongkong. Chinese reports from the colony state that Mr. Hsu has already reached there, but it is not mentioned whether or not he will visit Chungking.

He is said to have stated that he has left Shanghai in order to enable him to negotiate on "affairs related to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai and banking circles." The aged civic leader is associated with all these circles. Owing to his age, he is quoted as saying he will stay in Hongkong for some time.

With the departure of Mr. Hsu from Shanghai pro-Chungking Chinese ratepayers in Shanghai are virtually left without any leader. Mr. Wang Yen-lai, chairman of their association, has been going to and fro between Hongkong and Chungking ever since the conclusion of the Shanghai hostilities. Mr. Wang has been directing the association's affairs from Hongkong as no reorganization of any Chinese public body is allowed by the occupying authorities.

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New Chinese S.M.C.

Members Leave

**Mr. Chen Ting-rih Said
To Have Gone to Canton;
Three Councillors Resigned**

Another important development in Shanghai that is likely to produce political repercussions in regard to the Shanghai Municipal election, through which the Japanese are trying to obtain more representation, occurred here yesterday when it was announced by reliable Chinese circles that Mr. Chen Ting-rih, well known Chinese lawyer, who only recently was elected to succeed Mr. Eugene Y. P. Kiang, former Chinese member of the Shanghai Municipal Council, who has been blacklisted by Nanking, had also left Shanghai for Hongkong, thus leaving only three (out of five) Chinese members of the Council in the city.

It is important to note that Mr. Yu Ya-ching, doyen of Chinese members of the Council, and Mr. Chen, who have left the city, and the three remaining Chinese members of the Council have been re-elected for the ensuing year by the Chinese Ratepayers Association of the International Settlement, which is affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Chungking. While the exact date of Mr. Chen's departure at this moment could not be ascertained yesterday, Chinese circles in close touch with Council affairs expressed pessimism over the situation, explaining that it would be hard for the three remaining councillors to do anything useful to maintain the status quo.

May Meet Mr. Yu Ya-ching

Mr. Chen left the city yesterday for Hongkong on Sunday and whether or not he would meet Mr. Yu in Hongkong was a matter of speculation since Mr. Yu might have left for Chungking. Thus two more influential Chinese members of the Council are absent from the International Settlement; one is Mr. T. C. Cockson, Englishman, who was the most influential Chinese member of the Council but who did not run for re-election; and the other, besides Mr. Yu and Mr. Chen, is Mr. Liang Shao-lin, who is the Chinese Ratepayers Association, which is also represented in Hongkong.

It is not known whether the two remaining Chinese members of the Council will be able to obtain a quorum to meet in Council, but the Chinese Ratepayers Association, which is the largest Chinese organization in the International Settlement, has been invited to meet in Council.

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17-2-41 Fan

Rio Pao, a mosquito paper, publishes the following COMMUNIQUE BRANCH

A WORD TO THE CHINESE MEMBERS OF THE S.M.C.

The five Chinese Members of the S.M.C. will remain in office for another year. They have rendered meritorious service for the people and are trusted by the residents. We would like to pay a word to the five Chinese members.

The interests of the Chinese residents in the Settlement are under the care of the S.M.C. therefore, its administration is closely connected with the question of our livelihood. As the representatives of the Chinese residents in the administration of the Council, their actions will be closely watched by the people. So important is their duty that they must consider the interests of the people in every way; at the same time, they should make every effort to get rid of anything that is harmful to the people.

A study of the administration of the S.M.C. in past years shows that its administration is not at all good for our people. Take, for instance, the increase in the charges of the Shanghai Tramway Company, the Shanghai Telephone Company, the China General Omnibus Company and other public utility concerns. This is a matter which seriously concerns the interests of the residents. Yet the Council has approved these increases. Of course, the Chinese members of the Council are not alone to be blamed, for they showed their opposition by refraining from voting in favour of the increases. However, this is not sufficient in the eyes of the residents.

Most of the residents in the Settlement are Chinese. The exchange is rising considerably and the Chinese people are in financial stringencies. It is certain that they will make more use of the public utility services. Thus, the increases in the charges of these public utility services are obviously more harmful to the Chinese. As they are not in a position to raise direct opposition, it is hoped that the members of the Council will not give their approval, especially the Chinese members who should indicate their disapproval. Absentee from voting does no good and will only be regarded by the people as a way to evade responsibility.

In view of the tendency of commodity prices continuing to increase, it is natural that the charges of public utility services will be further increased. It is hoped that the Chinese members will, hereafter, struggle energetically and work for the welfare of the Chinese residents whatever may be the consequences. In that case, the people will know that the Chinese Councilors are truly working for the welfare of the people.

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